

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

MINUTES OF THE EQUALITIES COMMITTEE

**HELD AT COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CIVIC CENTRE, SWANSEA ON
WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2014 AT 5.00 PM**

PRESENT: F M Gordon (Chair) presided

Councillor(s)	Councillor(s)	Councillor(s)
A C S Colburn	S M Jones	L V Walton
D W Cole	C L Philpott	
Y V Jardine	G J Tanner	

Officers:

Jane Whitmore - CYPSU Team Leader

Euros Owen - Access to Services Team Leader

Janet Hooper – Directorate Lawyer

Gareth Borsden – Democratic Services Officer

10 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors JC Bayliss, VM Evans, ET Kirchner and TH Rees.

11 **TO RECEIVE DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS.**

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, no interests were declared.

12 **MINUTES.**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Equalities Committee held on 4 June 2014 be agreed as a correct record

13 **UNCRC IMPLEMENTATION PLAN - PRESENTATION.**

The CYPSU Team Leader assisted by the Access to Services Team Leader, provided a presentation on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and its impact on the workings and policies of the Local Authority.

The presentation focussed on the following key areas

- Background to the adoption of the Convention by the Authority.
- History of the Convention
- Relevant articles(1-42)
- Principal and underpinning articles (2,3,6 & 12)

- Progress on implementation including:
 - Work undertaken to incorporate due regard to the UNCRC within the current EIA process
 - Extension of the EIA process to cover the UNCRC including - age ranges and handy guides
 - Pilot scheme to trial the revised process and the resource needs to develop a quality assurance process for the UNCRC
 - Training and Rights based practice
 - Promotion and awareness raising
- Draft timelines for Children's Rights new scheme
- Expected outcomes and benefits

Discussions centred around the introduction and adoption of the Convention by the Authority, statutory responsibilities and duties, the development of policies, training of staff, improved knowledge and understanding of their rights by young people, roles and responsibility and lifestyle of families.

Members asked questions of the Officers and debated the content of the presentation.

The possibility of the Committee contributing to the consultation exercise on the new Children's Rights Scheme in the coming months and receiving an update on the issues and progress on the Convention in the future including possible cases studies was discussed.

The Chair thanked the Officers for their detailed and informative presentation.

14 **MEMBER CHAMPIONS (VERBAL).**

The Chair and Members of the Committee reported on the recent Swansea Pride and Armed Forces Day Events.

15 **WORK PLAN TIMETABLE 2014-2015.**

The Chair presented the revised Work Plan for 2014/2015.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

16 **NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY 30 JULY 2014. AT 5PM.**

NOTED that the next meeting of the Committee was at 5pm on Wednesday, 30 July 2014.

The meeting ended at 5.58 pm

CHAIR